

MANAGEMENT UNDER UNCERTAINTY

9.1 The Commission endorsed the section of the Scientific Committee report dealing with the FAO/Government of Sweden Technical Consultation on the Precautionary Approach to Fisheries held at Lysekil in Sweden in 1995, which produced a set of recommendations representing the latest thinking on what a precautionary approach entails. The Commission particularly noted that although CCAMLR had acted as a pioneer for this approach there was still much to be done, especially in the prospective evaluation of management procedures and their likely outcomes under conditions of uncertainty. It encouraged the Scientific Committee to continue its work on precautionary approaches.

9.2 The Commission endorsed the advances made this year by the development of a general yield model which takes uncertainty into account, and which was used to significantly improve the assessments and management advice for *D. eleginoides* (see also paragraphs 4.17 to 4.19). It noted that the general advice given last year (see CCAMLR-XIII, paragraph 10.2), that estimated yields usually decrease as uncertainty in model parameters increases, had been demonstrated by the Scientific Committee in its assessment of this stock (SC-CAMLR-XIV, paragraph 6.3).

9.3 The Commission noted that one aspect of uncertainty in regard to the *D. eleginoides* fishery in Subarea 48.3 was the question of the occurrence of this species both in the Convention Area and in areas adjacent to it. The Commission considered in some detail the question of whether such stocks should be considered 'straddling stocks' in the definition of the new UNCLOS Agreement.

9.4 The Commission recognised that there are a number of stocks which occur both inside and outside the Convention Area, often in adjacent areas and often showing contiguous distributions. It also recognised that for these stocks, harvesting outside the Convention Area affects the stocks inside the Convention Area, and *vice versa*. This implies that scientifically these stocks must be considered to extend from within the CCAMLR Convention Area to outside the area, and that this must be taken into account when developing scientific assessments.

9.5 The Commission agreed to refer to these stocks as 'stocks occurring both inside and outside the Convention Area'.

9.6 Australia stated that in its opinion the question of whether these stocks are straddling stocks according to the definition of the UNCLOS Agreement was still open and should continue to be investigated by the Commission. Other Members had strong reservations about the applicability of the agreement to CCAMLR.

9.7 The Commission continues to encourage the use of assessments incorporating uncertainty for other stocks. It especially encouraged the adoption of approaches incorporating uncertainty in the Scientific Committee's development of a longterm management plan for *C. gunnari* and strategic modelling for the development and evaluation of ecosystem assessments (SC-CAMLR-XIV, paragraphs 6.5 and 6.6).

9.8 The Commission endorsed the comments of the Scientific Committee concerning the interdependency of the Committee's evaluation of management strategies and the Commission's development of policies and objectives in scientifically interpretable terms. It considered that its continuing dialogue with the Scientific Committee was the most appropriate mechanism for ensuring that both these requirements for effective management are developed in concert.

9.9 The Commission noted the discussions of the Scientific Committee on the lack of specific policies or measures to deal with cases where fisheries have been closed but are under consideration for re-opening. These cases do not fall into the provisions for either New Fisheries (Conservation Measure 31/X) or Exploratory Fisheries (Conservation 65/XII). The Commission endorsed the Scientific Committee's intention to discuss the topic of policies and measures to deal with re-opening fisheries at its next meeting, and decided that the topic should also be put on the Commission's agenda.